For now, we're your Guide at Home

Helping you stay connected, entertained as many events have been postponed or canceled

The Dallas Morning News

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CORONAVIRUS

Closures ordered across Texas

"All jurisdictions must work to contain the spread of COVID-19."

Gov. **Greg Abbott**

Abbott shuts down dining, schools, gyms and bars, limits gatherings

By ALLIE MORRIS and JAMES BARRAGÁN
Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott is temporarily closing schools, restaurant dining areas, gyms and bars statewide in his most sweeping action yet to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. The order is effective early Saturday morning and continues until April 3, he said Thursday.

"All jurisdictions must work to contain the spread of COVID-19 for at least the next two weeks," Abbott said in a televised announcement from the Texas Capitol.

His executive order limits social gatherings to no more than 10 people and restricts people from visiting nursing homes and retirement centers unless they are providing "critical assistance," he said. While dining in at restaurants and bars will not be allowed, Abbott encouraged Texans to continue ordering food from local eateries for pickup or delivery.

All schools in Texas will be temporarily closed, though Abbott said superintendents should work with the state to continue "online or additional education options."

The order may be extended beyond April 3, depending on the status of COVID-19 in Texas then, Abbott said. He emphasized that the action is not a shelter-in-place order. It does not prohibit people from going to the grocery store, gas stations, banks or parks, he said.

Offices and workplaces can remain open, but employees

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Young are also stricken

New data shows 38% of those hospitalized in U.S. are under 55

By ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA
The Washington Post

The deadly coronavirus has been met with a bit of a shrug among some in the under-50 set in the United States. Even as public health officials repeatedly urged social distancing, the young and hip spilled out of bars on Bourbon Street. They gleefully hopped on flights, tweeting about the rock-bottom airfares. And they gathered in packs on beaches.

Their attitudes were based in part on early data from China, which suggested COVID-19 might seriously sicken or kill the elderly — but spare the young.

Stark new data from the United States and Europe suggests otherwise.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analysis of U.S. cases from Feb. 12 to March 16 that was released Wednesday shows that 38% of those sick enough to be hospitalized were younger than 55 years.

Earlier this week, French Health Ministry official Jérôme Salomon said half the 300 to 400 coronavirus patients treated in ICUs in Paris were younger than 65, and according to numbers presented at a seminar of intensive care specialists, half the ICU patients in the Netherlands were under 50.

At a White House news conference on Wednesday, Deborah Birx, the response coordinator of the nation's coronavirus task force, warned about

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Amid crisis, love is in the air

Smiley N. Pool/Staff Photographer

Laura Remson and Abhishek Ravi kissed Thursday after being married on the first day of spring at the nearly empty Dallas Arboretum — "the backup plan," the bride said, laughing. They had planned a five-day, 250-person wedding in India but postponed it because of coronavirus concerns. "We hope to do that eventually," she said.

Dallas County virus death

Dallas County reported its first death related to the new coronavirus — one of 20 new cases the county reported Thursday — a former public health official said. **6A**

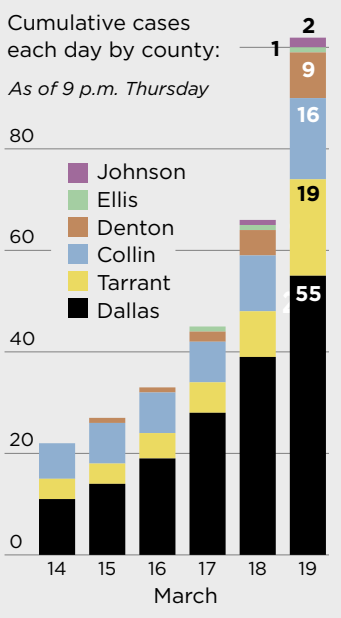
Editor's note

Our coverage priorities have changed amid the coronavirus pandemic. Starting today, you'll see some temporary adjustments in your daily newspaper. **2A**

Coronavirus in North Texas

Cumulative cases each day by county:

As of 9 p.m. Thursday



SOURCES: County health departments; Texas Department of State Health Services; *DMN* reporting

Teacher launches virtual classroom

Hundreds log on to learn after schools send students home

By DAVID TARRANT
Staff Writer
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LISA VAN GEMERT

The smiling face of Lisa Van Gemert filled the screen, all cheery and welcoming like it was the first day of school.

And in a way it was.

"And, I'm live. Here we go. It's very exciting," she said, greeting the class on Monday.

"I've never done anything like this."

Wait, what?

A little background.

With schools closing here and around the country in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus, Van Gemert, a former high school teacher in Arlington, woke up Saturday morning and started thinking about all the teachers she knew, and all her former students who now have school-age kids, and thought: "I wonder what I can do to help."

That thought was followed by another: "I wonder if I could teach a class online."

A quick search showed lots of options and resources for elementary-age kids but not as many targeting secondary students. So that's where she put her focus — to come up with material suitable for students in grades seven through 12.

Over the weekend she crammed the basics of YouTube, learning how to stream live and share slides. She put together a syllabus for a two-

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Dallas officer tests positive

Memos show chief is getting ready in case illnesses thin ranks

By CASSANDRA JARAMILLO
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A Dallas police officer who tested positive for the coronavirus on Thursday has been asked to stay home and isolate, the Police Department said.

Three co-workers who were in contact with the officer also have been asked to self-quarantine. The department did not identify the officer who tested positive but said the person was "doing well." Officials also cleaned the space used by the officer, who works in the Northeast patrol station.

It is the first known coronavirus case in the department, which employs about 3,129 people: 1,890 work as patrol officers and 1,239 are sworn officers in investigative, tactical and administrative units.

The department said it was working with the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services to figure out any other steps that need to be taken.

To decrease contact with the public, the department also announced plans to limit visitors inside police headquarters, and it reduced hours for its property room. The 1725 Baylor St. office will now be open only from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays.

On Thursday, Dallas County reported 20 additional cases of coronavirus infection, including the county's first death related to the COVID-19 virus. The total number of known

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Morning showers

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Metro, back page

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